and 4th May 1916 respectively, decided that the minutes and other proceedings should be recorded in English only. The members, who were not acquainted with the English language, were much discouraged by the above decision. They did not know in detail the proceedings of the Committee. It was desirable that the discussions in the Committee should also take place in Malayalam. According to section 25 of the Municipal Bill, the public had access to the meetings of the Committee. Unless the minutes and proceedings of the Committee were recorded in the Vernacular language also, the benefit of proviso 4 to the above section would not be enjoyed by the people. For the reasons stated above, the Member prayed that the minutes of the T. I. C., be ordered to be recorded in Malayalam also.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

101. Appointment of non-official Presidents for Town Improvement Committees.

Mr. A. Viramani Iyer (Member, T. I. C., Mavelikara) said that, of the 19 Town Improvement Committees in the State, 18 were presided over by Government officials. When the permanent President went on leave, his successor in office generally took that place. Being a new man he was not able to understand the situation thoroughly and consequently the work of the Committee suffered. The official Presidents were not able to spare much time for the work connected with the Committee. Oftentimes they found it difficult even to attend the meetings of the Committee owing to heavy pressure of work in other directions. On the other hand, a non-official President would be able to devote a good portion of his time in going about the town and ascertaining its requirements. The desirability of appointing non-official Presidents had been urged upon the attention of the Government from the eleventh session of the Assembly. The Government themselves admitted that the working of the Alleppey Committee under its non-official President was very satisfactory. The proposal would not entail any additional expenditure to the Government. It would, moreover, bring in greater advantages to the people. The Member, therefore, suggested that the Presidents of all the Town Improvement Committees be elected from non-official Members of the Committees and that, when the President was absent or went on leave, another non-official Member be asked to attend to the duties of the President.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

102. Desirability of granting permission to the Town Improvement Committee, Alleppey, to levy a small toll on all vessels entering the water-ways within the limits of the Town.

Mr. N. T. Isaac (Member, T. I. C., Alleppey) said that Alleppey, being a commercial centre, attracted many people to it from outside. The town of Alleppey might be deemed the central town of Travancore. The steam boats from Quilon, Kottayam, Changanacherry, Chengannur and other places stopped at Alleppey. Those who wanted to go to Trivandrum, Cochin, Ernakulam, Madras and other places also halted at Alleppey for a day or two on their way. They availed themselves of the facilities afforded by the town for short halts. It was, therefore, equitable to realise a small amount from such persons in the shape of a toll. The Government were spending enormous sums for building bridges, improving canals, etc., within the town. There were several other matters also to be attended to with a view to improve the sanitation of the town and the Government might not be in a position to undertake all such works. Under the circumstances, the Member prayed that the Committee be empowered to levy a small fee from all persons who touched Alleppey on their way to other places. He understood that the Madras Government had either sanctioned or had under contemplation the recovery of a fee from all railway passengers, for the benefit of the Municipality.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

103. Condition of the town of Kottayam.

Mr. K. M. Mathula Mappila (Member, T. I. C., Kottayam) said that the town of Kottayam was fast rising in importance and that the Government had not done anything in recent years for the town, except perhaps the establishment of a

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